

Conversation Contents

Proposal request

"Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>

From: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Apr 29 2019 21:17:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: blefebvre@politico.com
CC: "Hall, Steven B" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: Proposal request

Hi Ben,

Once we have a proposal for the Mid-Continent Quarry that we deem complete under the mining regulations, we will post it on-line and begin the detailed environmental review, which includes opportunities for public comment.

This completeness review is what is referenced in the letter you cite. We are not releasing the draft proposals we deem incomplete.

You might try the proponent, RMR, who has released drafts to the City, County and media.

--

David Boyd

Bureau of Land Management
Public Affairs Specialist
NW Colorado District
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652

(970) 876-9008
(970) 319-4130 (cell)

Steven Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>

From: Steven Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Apr 29 2019 22:56:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Proposal request

Thanks David!

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 29, 2019, at 9:17 PM, Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi Ben,

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Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

From: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 09:38:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
CC: "Hall, Steven B" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

Hi David,

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4. Has BLM met with or communicated with Michael Stratton regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal? Has BLM met with or communicated with Chad Brownstein regarding the Mid-Continent

expansion proposal?

5. Has BLM consulted with anyone in the DOI Secretary's office about the RMR project?
6. Has Secretary Bernhardt recused himself from policy decisions regarding the RMR project, given its ties to his former employer Brownstein Hyatt?
7. Is there anything you can say regarding resident's concerns that the Mid-Continent expansion project would present a problem to the town regarding quality of life?

Any insight you might be able to offer would be most appreciated.

Thank you,
Ben Lefebvre
Politico
703-647-8775

From: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:18 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>
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"Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>

From: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 11:54:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Connie Clementson <cclementson@blm.gov>, Larry Sandoval <lsandoval@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ben Lefebvre** <blefebvre@politico.com>
Date: Thu, May 16, 2019 at 9:38 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request
To: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Cc: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>

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"Hall, Steven" <sbhall@blm.gov>

From: "Hall, Steven" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 12:14:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
CC: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

What's your deadline Ben?

Steven Hall
BLM Colorado Communications Director
303.239.3672
sbhall@blm.gov

On Thu, May 16, 2019 at 9:38 AM Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

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From: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 12:23:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hall, Steven" <sbhall@blm.gov>
CC: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

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From: Hall, Steven <sbhall@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

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From: "Hall, Steven" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 12:25:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

CC: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
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From: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Sent: Thu May 16 2019 13:19:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hall, Steven" <sbhall@blm.gov>
CC: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

Hey all,

Sorry – one more question to add to the list:

In March 2019, the Glenwood Springs city council passed a resolution calling for BLM to conduct a full environmental review of the proposed expansion and hold public hearings on the current mine's violations. Any word on BLM's response to that? Any EIS in the works?

Thank you,
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Hi Ben,

See answers below. I added your additional question to this response. Let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks.

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1. Has RMR resubmitted a modified plan of operations for the Mid-Continent mine in Garfield County, Colorado, since March? If so, which office is in charge of evaluating that plan - BLM Colorado Northwest District or BLM in D.C.?
We have not received a new Plan of Operations Modification from RMR since the March submission that was returned. The Colorado River Valley Field Office conducts the plan modification reviews. When we get a new submission, we will have 30 days to review it for completeness, just as for the past submissions.
2. Did BLM in D.C. at all review the latest RMR plan or those submitted in November 2018 or March 2019 and thereafter rejected by the bureau? If so, is the normal for the D.C. office to evaluate state applications for projects?
No. The review was conducted by the Colorado River Valley Field Office.
3. If Garfield County finds on June 1 that the mine is not in compliance with its county agreement, how will that effect BLM's processing of the RMR plan of operations?
We are currently determining how to address the existing mining operations as well as any future proposal.
4. Has BLM met with or communicated with Michael Stratton regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal? Has BLM met with or communicated with Chad Brownstein regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal?
Michael Stratton has been present at meetings or on conference calls for some discussions BLM has had with RMR related to the Mid-Continent Quarry. I am not aware of Chad Brownstein being involved in any of those discussions.
5. Has BLM consulted with anyone in the DOI Secretary's office about the RMR project?
As would typically be the case for controversial topics in a field office, the BLM Washington Office and DOI have been briefed on the potential expansion proposal for the Mid-Continent Quarry. We referred the question below to DOI for a DOI response.
6. Has Secretary Bernhardt recused himself from policy decisions regarding the RMR project, given its ties to his former employer Brownstein Hyatt? **We referred this question to DOI for**

response.

7. Is there anything you can say regarding resident's concerns that the Mid-Continent expansion project would present a problem to the town regarding quality of life?

At this point BLM still does not have a complete proposal from RMR. When we have received a complete proposal, we will conduct a detailed environmental review that will include multiple opportunities for public involvement.

8. In March 2019, the Glenwood Springs city council passed a resolution calling for BLM to conduct a full environmental review of the proposed expansion and hold public hearings on the current mine's violations. Any word on BLM's response to that? Any EIS in the works?

Once we have a complete Plan of Operations Modification from RMR, we will determine the level of NEPA review required (e.g. environmental assessment or environmental impact statement). We appreciate the involvement of local governments and communities.

Any insight you might be able to offer would be most appreciated.

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Sent: Tue May 21 2019 09:07:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boyd, David" <dboyd@blm.gov>
CC: "Hall, Steven B" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

Thanks for this, David. Appreciate the prompt turnaround.

From: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 4:39 PM
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Hi Ben,

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I'm looking into a project that Rocky Mountain Resources is proposing for a limestone mine on BLM land in Garfield County, Colorado. The project, if approved, would expand the mine despite opposition from local residents and the a number of permit violations RMR has been found to have committed at the mine site in the past several years. Local residents have complained that the local BLM has not responded to their concerns and that they have had to visit BLM headquarters in D.C. to voice those concerns.

1. Has RMR resubmitted a modified plan of operations for the Mid-Continent mine in Garfield County, Colorado, since March? If so, which office is in charge of evaluating that plan - BLM Colorado Northwest District or BLM in D.C.?
We have not received a new Plan of Operations Modification from RMR since the March submission that was returned. The Colorado River Valley Field Office conducts the plan modification reviews. When we get a new submission, we will have 30 days to review it for completeness, just as for the past submissions.
2. Did BLM in D.C. at all review the latest RMR plan or those submitted in November 2018 or March 2019 and thereafter rejected by the bureau? If so, is the normal for the D.C. office to evaluate state applications for projects?
No. The review was conducted by the Colorado River Valley Field Office.

3. If Garfield County finds on June 1 that the mine is not in compliance with its county agreement, how will that effect BLM's processing of the RMR plan of operations?
We are currently determining how to address the existing mining operations as well as any future proposal.
4. Has BLM met with or communicated with Michael Stratton regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal? Has BLM met with or communicated with Chad Brownstein regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal?
Michael Stratton has been present at meetings or on conference calls for some discussions BLM has had with RMR related to the Mid-Continent Quarry. I am not aware of Chad Brownstein being involved in any of those discussions.
5. Has BLM consulted with anyone in the DOI Secretary's office about the RMR project?
As would typically be the case for controversial topics in a field office, the BLM Washington Office and DOI have been briefed on the potential expansion proposal for the Mid-Continent Quarry. We referred the question below to DOI for a DOI response.
6. Has Secretary Bernhardt recused himself from policy decisions regarding the RMR project, given its ties to his former employer Brownstein Hyatt? **We referred this question to DOI for response.**
7. Is there anything you can say regarding resident's concerns that the Mid-Continent expansion project would present a problem to the town regarding quality of life?

At this point BLM still does not have a complete proposal from RMR. When we have received a complete proposal, we will conduct a detailed environmental review that will include multiple opportunities for public involvement.

8. In March 2019, the Glenwood Springs city council passed a resolution calling for BLM to conduct a full environmental review of the proposed expansion and hold public hearings on the current mine's violations. Any word on BLM's response to that? Any EIS in the works?

Once we have a complete Plan of Operations Modification from RMR, we will determine the level of NEPA review required (e.g. environmental assessment or environmental impact statement). We appreciate the involvement of local governments and communities.

Any insight you might be able to offer would be most appreciated.

Thank you,
Ben Lefebvre
Politico
703-647-8775

From: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:18 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: Proposal request

Hi Ben,

Once we have a proposal for the Mid-Continent Quarry that we deem complete under the mining regulations, we will post it on-line and begin the detailed environmental review, which includes opportunities for public comment.

This completeness review is what is referenced in the letter you cite. We are not releasing the draft proposals we deem incomplete.

You might try the proponent, RMR, who has released drafts to the City, County and media.

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